(b) No, Sir. However IMF's appraisal is consistent with the World Bank's advice to India on trade policy, according to which a reduction in trade restrictions would lead to an improvement in India's export performance, would improve the competitiveness of import-competing domestic industry, and would provide benefits to domestic purchasers and consumers.

(c) The Government is taking all measures to increase the pace of economic development as part of the ongoing economic reform process.

Persons on ITC Board chargesheeted by Enforcement Directorate

2259. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Enforcement Directorate has chargesheeted all those who had served on the board of ITC Ltd., since 1993 including nominees of the Financial Institutions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Five Show Cause Notices have been issued by the Enforcement Directorate to M/s. ITC, its Chairman, Ex-Chairman and all its Directors who were on the company's Board during the period 1993-95, including nominees of the financial institutions.

Persons arrested for violation of custom rules

2260. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons arrested for violation of customs rules in the country during each of the last three years up till now; and

(b) the amount of drugs, gold, silver, cash and foreign articles seized from them, custom-zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

LIC investment in Housing Sector in Maharashtra

2261. MISS. SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) housing loans given by the LIC in Maharashtra, particularly in Vidarbha region during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that LIC is investing loss amount in Maharashtra compared to other States in respect of housing loans;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) steps Governments propose to take to ensure that LIC invests substantial amount in housing sector of Maharashtra through loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The Planning Commission had allocated Rs. 9.02, 10.29 and 8.94 crores to Government of Maharashtra for housing loans for the financial years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 respectively, but the amounts were not disbursed since the State Government did not avail of the loan. However, for the same period an amount of Rs. 16.00 crores in each financial year have been disbursed by LIC to the Maharashtra State Co-operative Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. The housing loans given to State Governments